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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 09/671,201

Filing Date: September 28, 2000

First Named Inventor: Michiaki SANO

Group Art Unit: 1765

Examiner: L. Vinh

Attorney Docket Number: 07553.0009

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

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This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) instead of a RCE to be eligible for patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See "Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice," Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000). Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114:

- a. Previously submitted
- i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply after final under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____.
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed:
- i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement
 - iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. Other _____

3. Fees

- a. The filing fee is calculated as follows:
- i. \$750.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. Petition for extension of time for (One month) \$_____
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Check in the amount of \$ 750.00 is enclosed.
- c. The Director is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required

Name: David W. Hill Reg. No.: 28,220

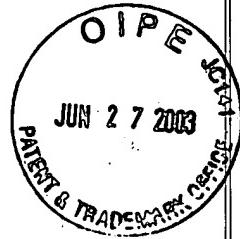
Signature: David W. Hill Date: June 27, 2003

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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07553.0009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Michiaki SANO

Serial No.: 09/671,201

Filed: September 28, 2000

For: PLASMA PROCESSING
METHOD

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) Group Art Unit: 1765

) Examiner: L. Vinh

)

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In reply to the final Office Action dated April 8, 2003, Applicant concurrently files a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 with this Amendment. Please amend the application as follows:

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